

BOYER RANCH (Lamb Ranch), GILBERT'S STOREROOM  
44 miles east of Fallon, Nevada on  
Highway 50, 54 miles north on  
Dixie Valley Road  
Fallon vicinity  
Churchill County  
Nevada

HABS No. NV-20-A

HABS  
NEV,  
I-FALL.V,  
I-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service, Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BOYER RANCH (Lamb Ranch), GILBERT'S STOREROOM

HABS  
NEV,  
1-FALL. V.  
1-A-

HABS NO. NV-20-A

Location: 44 miles east of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada on Highway 50, 54 miles north on Dixie Valley Road

USGS Humboldt Salt Marsh Quadrangle (15'),

Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 11-424825-4423225

Significance: The stone building was erected by the Gilbert Brothers ca. 1860 - 1866. Nevada Place Names states that Dixie Valley was settled by southern sympathizers in 1861 and in that same year the second gold strike in the territory was made in Cottonwood Canyon. The mining town of Bolivia was quickly established in the Canyon about three miles northwest of this structure. At about the same time a root cellar of similar construction was built about 41 feet to the south. While not the work of a master builder they are examples of vernacular architecture and embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction. Modifications and rehabilitation without regard for accepted standards have diminished their integrity but they still convey the essence of their historic past.

Description: The single story stone building is roughly 21 by 25 feet and the single room interior is 18 by 21 feet. The walls extend six feet above a compacted dirt floor and are comprised of detritus from the alluvial fan on which the building is located. A mud cement plaster coated the walls inside and out and white paint at one time covered the plaster.

The roof is supported by the walls and two hand hewn cottonwood logs placed above the supporting timbers for the lintels. Rough-sawn planks were added at a later time to lend additional support for the beams. Vigas of cottonwood, elm, juniper, and pinyon pine span from wall to beams and the space between the beams. Braided rugs, rags, and newspapers can be seen through the chinks and must have been used to prevent the earth covering from sifting through. About 1970 Mr. Lamb added a plywood and asphalt shingle roof over the existing roof. He also added vertical

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board siding from the roof line to the level of the doors and windows.

Around the center point of the room four cottonwood posts were erected to support the roof beams. They are 6' - 8' in diameter and spaced in a four foot square. Beginning at 2'3" above the floor these posts were boxed in to a height of 6'3". The resulting box enclosure was covered with screen to form a dry cooler. San Francisco Daily Examiner newspapers of 1894 - 1896 were pasted over the boxed columns to seal out insects.

HISTORY:

Sheldon Lamb states that the stone building and it's associated root cellar were built in 1866 by the Gilbert brothers as a base camp for a mine they were working in the Stillwater Range about five miles north of the ranch. Mrs. Lamb claims that they were built in 1860 or 1861. Neither date nor construction by the Gilbert's has been confirmed. The earliest record for the property is December 23, 1909 when the Governor signed the patent. The patent #6664 was recorded on November 27, 1914 in the name of Alva Boyer. The BLM office in Carson City has no records of the property before Desert Land Entry in 1861 or prior to statehood when control of the land was transferred to the state. There is no evidence of anyone associated with the ranch having had a significant role in the history of Nevada. The Lamb's purchased the ranch in 1966 and the U. S. Navy purchased it in December 1986 under a program to buy property from those owners wishing to relocate from under the Navy's Supersonic Operations Area. Future plans call for abandoning the structures and issuing agricultural outleases on the land.

SOURCES:

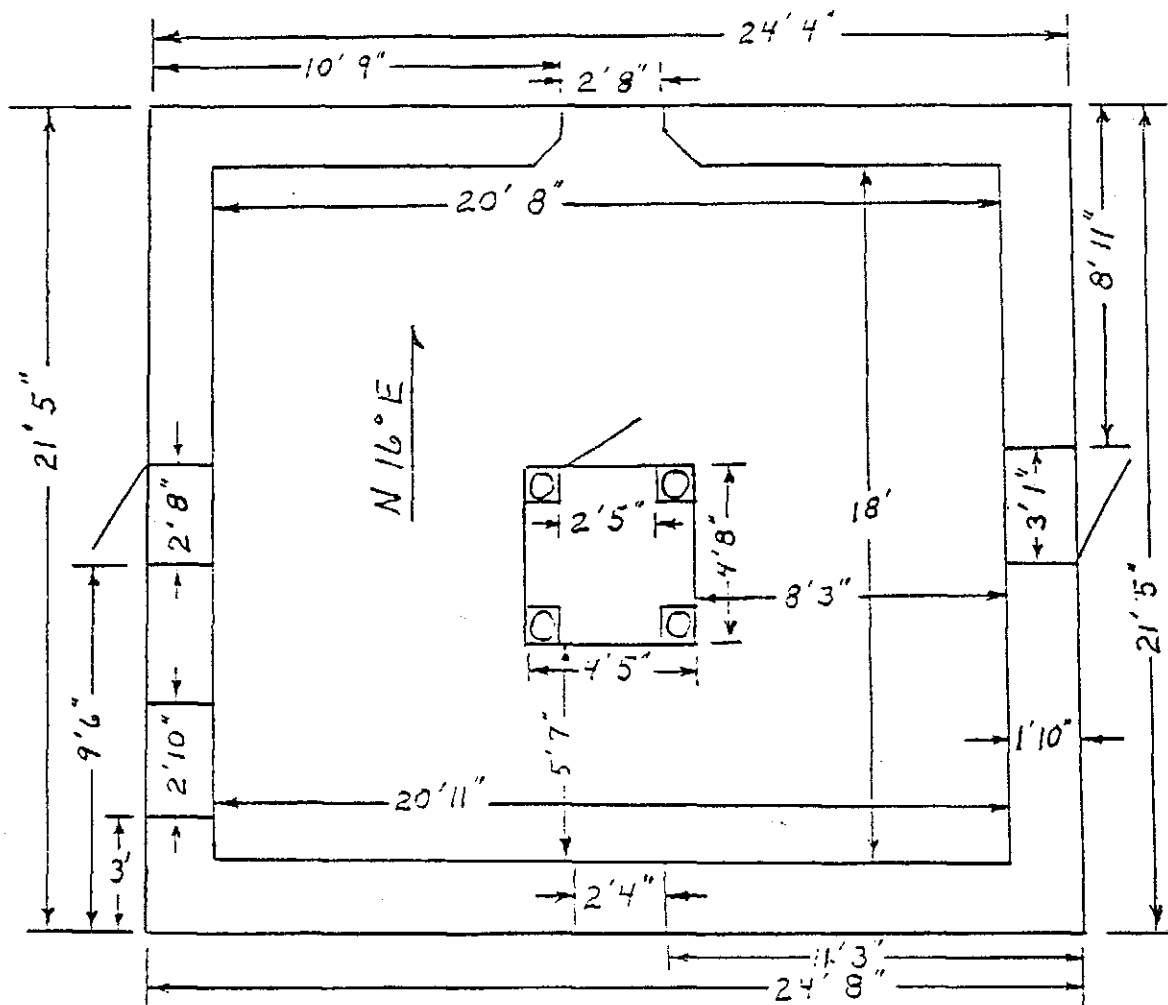
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Lamb  
Northern Nevada Title Company, Fallon, Nevada  
Bureau of Land Management, Carson City, Nevada  
Nevada Place Homes  
History of Nevada, 1881 reproduced by Thompson and West in 1958

HISTORIAN :

W. E. Frazier, Public Works Department, Naval Air Station,  
Fallon, Nevada

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TOP VIEW  
(Excluding roof)

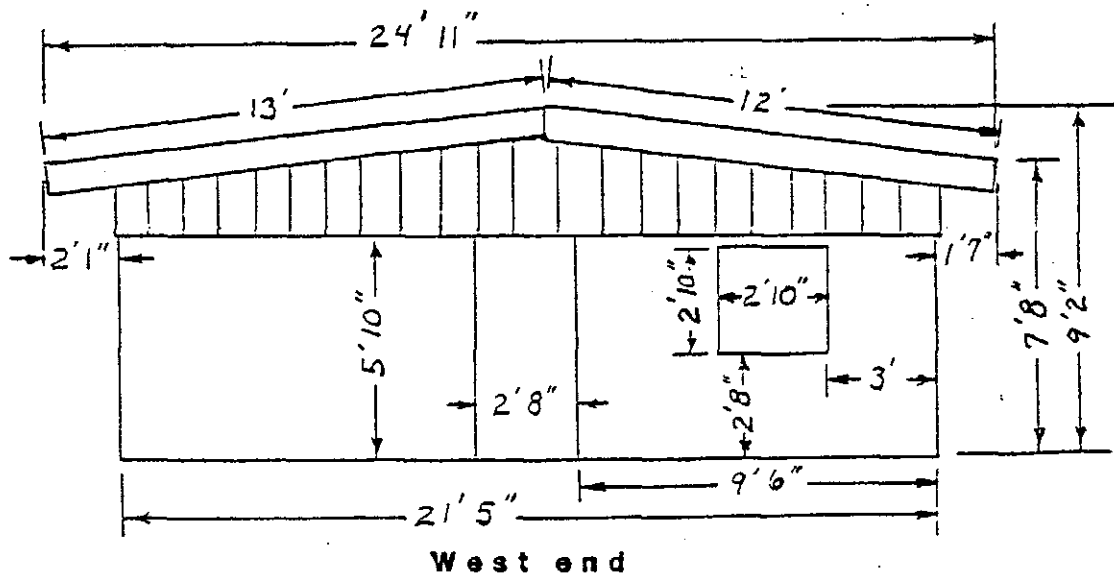
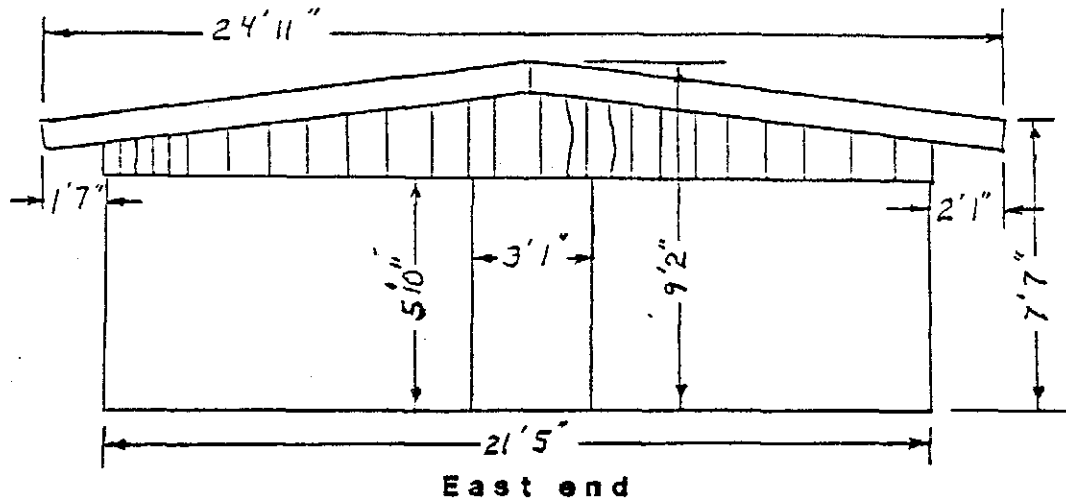
Stone walls are 6 feet in height.  
Dry cooler is boxed in from 2' 3" to 6' 3" above floor.

Northeast corner of Storeroom bears N 51° 41' 56" W 1637.78 feet from the  
West 1/16 corner between sections 7 and 18, T24 N R 37 E

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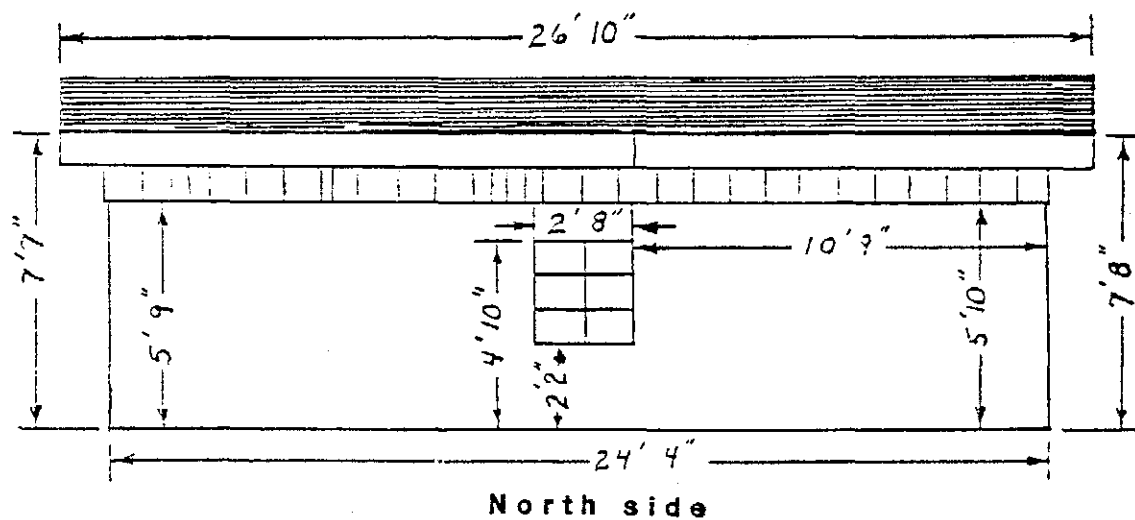
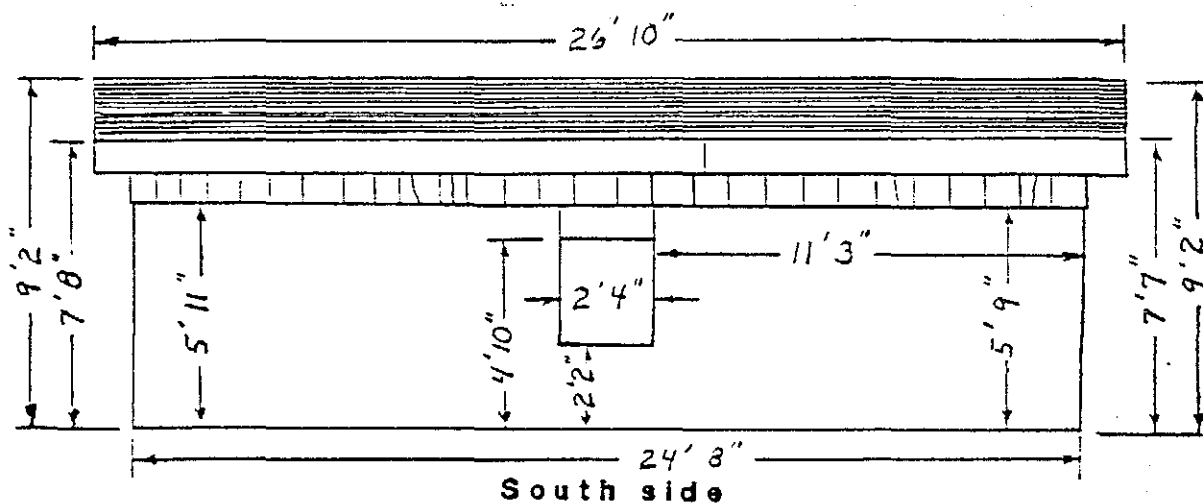
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